

Michael F. Easley
Governor



State of North Carolina
Office of the Governor

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Contact: Renee Hoffman
Phone: 919/733-5612

GOV. EASLEY DEPLOYS RAPID-RESPONSE TEAM TO GILDAN IN MOUNT AIRY
Employees to Get Help Finding New Jobs & Receiving Education, Training & Services

RALEIGH - Gov. Mike Easley today announced that North Carolina's Rapid Response Team will meet this week in Mount Airy with managers from Gildan, the textile-manufacturing company that notified employees May 30 it would be closing two sock plants by the end of August, putting 520 employees out of work.

"Our team is ready to go," Easley said. "Our goal is to reduce the amount of time people are out of work, whether that is helping them find new jobs or making sure they receive additional education, training or other services."

The team consists of representatives from state and local agencies including the Department of Commerce's Division of Employment and Training, the Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board, the Employment Security Commission and the N.C. Community College System. The team helps coordinate transitional services for employees who have lost their jobs due to a layoff or facility closure.

During the initial discussions with managers, the team will provide an overview of services available to dislocated workers and help Gildan establish an early intervention and transition plan of action. Follow-up meetings, coordinated by the Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board, will be held with employees in the near future.

"We will work closely with the Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board and other local and state agencies to get Gildan workers re-employed as soon as possible," said Easley.

Individual worker surveys will be used to determine specific needs such as daycare. Other services may include job fairs, career counseling and financial-planning seminars, as well as Mobile JobLink, a self-contained, handicapped-accessible vehicle that offers a full array of employment, reemployment and employer services. It contains 11 computer workstations that have Internet access, a conference area, a printer, DVD/VCR and TV monitor for presentations.

More information is available at the following websites: Commerce's Division of Employment and Training at www.ncdet.com and Northwest Piedmont Workforce Development Board at www.northwestpiedmontworks.org.

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